

Appendix B - Glossary

The following section provides a list of terms with their definitions that are used in this document and/or lend themselves to a better understanding of the One-VA Enterprise Architecture. It is anticipated that additional terms will be defined over time, and that certain of the current definitions will require significant adjustment as the One-VA Enterprise Architecture functionality changes to suit the VA business flow process. In any contradiction between a term in this glossary and a current Department of Veterans Affairs directive, the directive supersedes the definition.

Term	Definition
As-Is	Current, Baseline. Current view of a domain.
Accessibility	Refers to hardware and software that helps people who are physically or visually impaired.
Account Information – Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services (Master Record)	Specific information related to a veteran’s account with a VA program, which is used to support the delivery of services to the veteran and management of the overall program.
Advocate	Someone interacting with VA on behalf of a veteran.
Allied Healthcare	The name of a specific healthcare provider.
Appeals	The method by which a veteran contests a decision made by the VA.
Accredit	To supply with credentials or authority; authorize. To attest to and approve as meeting a prescribed standard. To recognize as maintaining those standards requisite to gain admission to other reputable institutions or to achieve credentials for professional practice. To approve a system for operation according to the prescribed security standards.
Ancillary Care	Additional healthcare services performed, such as lab work and x-rays.
Architecture	A design. The term <i>architecture</i> can refer to either hardware or software, or to a combination of hardware and software. The architecture of a system always defines its broad outlines, and may define precise mechanisms as well.
Architecture Artifacts	Collections of information that describe the various aspects of the architecture.

Term	Definition
Asset	The entries on a balance sheet showing all properties, both tangible and intangible, and claims against others that may be applied to cover the liabilities of a person or business. Assets can include cash, stock, inventories, property rights, and goodwill.
Asset Management	The process whereby the VA collects and maintains a comprehensive list of the items it owns such as hardware and software. This data is used in connection with the financial aspects of ownership such as calculating the total cost of ownership, depreciation, licensing, maintenance, and insurance.
Associated Data Classes	Classes of data that are used by a particular subfunction.
Authentication	The process of identifying an individual, usually based on a username and password. In security systems, authentication is distinct from <i>authorization</i> , which is the process of giving individuals access to system objects based on their identity. Authentication merely ensures that the individual is who he or she claims to be, but says nothing about the access rights of the individual.
Authorization	The process of granting or denying access to a network resource. Most computer security systems are based on a two-step process. The first stage is authentication, which ensures that a user is who he or she claims to be. The second stage is authorization, which allows the user access to various resources based on the user's identity.
Backup	To copy files to a secondary medium (e.g. a disk or tape) as a precaution in case the first medium fails.
Baseline	A standard by which things are measured or compared.
Benchmark	The performance of a predetermined function or set of functions, used for comparison purposes.
Beneficiary	One who receives benefits from VA.
Benefit	A payment made or a VA entitlement available in accordance with an agreement, an insurance policy, or an assistance program.
Best Practices	Processes and procedures evaluated to be more favorable in the performance of certain functions, operations or delivery of services.
Board of Veterans Appeals	The VA's final in-house appellate body that reviews cases and determines if VA has made the correct determination.

Term	Definition
Budget	A statement of a VA program plan, the resources necessary to support that plan, a description of how and for what purposes the resources are to be used, and a projection of the effects of the programs on people and the VA environment.
Budget Formulation	The formal process for developing VA's budget request in order to provide senior leadership with the information needed to make decisions on policy, performance goals, and associated resources needed to meet the Department's strategic goals. The basic forms of budget authority are; appropriations, authority to borrow, contract authority, and authority to obligate and expend offsetting receipts and collections. The period of time during which Congress makes funds available may be specified as one-year, multiple years or no year.
Builder View	Row 4 of the Zachman Framework. It describes VA's information systems from the perspective of Information Technology and is the responsibility of VA PMs. It is constrained by VA PMs' detailed functional and technical requirements baseline view and driven by industry 'best-practices' as documented in the VA TRM and Standards Profile.
Business Process	A thread through one or more sub-functions that describes how a specific task is accomplished. .
Business Owner	An individual or group of individuals with knowledge and expertise related to an identified function and its sub functions.
C4ISR Architecture Framework	The Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) Architecture Framework was developed by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) C4ISR Architecture Working Group to provide guidance for describing architectures. It is intended to ensure that architectures developed by the Commands, Services, and defense Agencies are interrelatable between and among the organizations' operational, systems, and technical architecture views, and are comparable and integratable across Joint and multi-national organizational boundaries. The Framework is intended to ensure that a clear audit trail exists from mission operations and effectiveness measures to the characteristics of current and postulated C4ISR systems and their contributions (performance and interoperability metrics) to mission operations.

Term	Definition
CIO Council	Known as the Information Technology Board, the CIO Council was established to provide a corporate forum for Departmental IT management. The CIO Council supports the CIO's efforts, and provides advice and corporate perspective for IT plans and investments. The CIO Council membership is comprised of the VHA and VBA CIOs, and representatives from NCA, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the Office of Planning and Analysis (OP&A) and the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA). The CIO Council is chaired by the VA CIO.
Call Center	A location where business agents receive and respond to telephone requests and inquiries. The telephone call is usually free-of-charge to the customer caller.
Capital Planning	The process of choosing the VA's long-term expenditures to acquire or improve its business operations and/or services.
Care Practitioner	One who is engaged in the actual use or exercise of the care profession, particularly medicine.
Case Management	Management of a beneficiary's application for and receipt of benefits.
Center of Excellence	One of a number of research centers dedicated to study of a particular medical condition.
Chief Architect	The head or lead architect of a design. In the specific case of the One-VA EA, the lead designer of the hardware and/or software architecture.
Code of Federal Regulations	Provides rules governing the administration and execution of Federal programs.
Continuity Of Operations	Continuity of Operations and/or Business continuance (sometimes referred to as business continuity) describes the processes and procedures an organization puts in place to ensure that essential functions can continue during and after a disaster. Business continuance planning seeks to prevent interruption of mission-critical services, and to reestablish full functioning as swiftly and smoothly as possible.
Claimant	A party that makes a claim.
Clinger-Cohen Act	Empowers the Chief Information Officer (CIO) with the responsibility to develop, maintain and facilitate the implementation of an information technology architecture.
Columbaria	A stand-alone structure designed as the repository of cremated remains.

Term	Definition
Community Based Outpatient Clinics	These are health care facilities that are regional in nature and in which a limited number of health care services are provided to patients on an outpatient basis only (i.e., a patient who is admitted to a clinic for treatment that does not require an overnight stay).
Compensation	Arrangement under which the delivery of goods to a party is paid for by buying back a certain amount of the product from the recipient of the goods.
Confidentiality	Done or communicated in confidence; secret. Containing information, the unauthorized disclosure of which poses a threat to personal, material or other security. Discretion in keeping secret information.
Consolidated Mail Out Pharmacy	The Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy package provides a regional system resource to expedite the distribution of mail-out prescriptions to the patient. A regional location, CMOP host facility, will receive data from medical centers from within the area of service. Current CMOPs are designed to handle the dispensing and mailing of 10,000 prescriptions in an 8 hour workday.
Contact Management	Management of customer service interaction with a veteran, beneficiary, or other veteran representative.
Contract Providers	Personnel who provide health care services to VA under contract as opposed to being VA employees.
Coordinating Center	These facilities provide statistical and methodological guidance to VA investigators conducting clinical trials.
Cyber Attack	Unlike a nuisance virus or computer attack that results in denial of service, a cyber terrorist attack would lead to physical violence or extreme financial harm.
Cyber Security	The protection of data against unauthorized access. Cyber security entails measures taken to guard against espionage, sabotage, or attack of an information infrastructure. It is the protection efforts afforded to sensitive data and within the infrastructure, to maintain confidentiality, integrity, and access.
Cyber Terrorism	According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, a cyber attack or cyber terrorism is any "premeditated, politically motivated attack against information, computer systems, computer programs, and data which results in violence against non-combatant targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents."
Database	An organized compilation of related data.

Term	Definition
Data Centers	Physical centers where data is stored and from which data can be transferred between a source and a destination via one or more data links, according to appropriate protocols. Transmission and reception of data, often including operations such as coding, decoding and validation.
Data Class	Data that is related in some way and that can be categorized together.
Data Recovery	Salvaging data stored on damaged media, such as magnetic disks and tapes.
Data Structure	<p>In programming, the term <i>data structure</i> refers to a scheme for organizing related pieces of information. The basic types of data structures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Files • Lists • Arrays • Records • Trees • Tables <p>Each of these basic structures has many variations and allows different operations to be performed on the data.</p>
Debt Collection	Money borrowed that is now demanded to be returned.
Decryption	<i>Decryption</i> is the process of converting encrypted data back into its original form, so it can be understood.
Defense in Depth	The VA's strategy to defend against cyber attacks of all kinds. Defense in Depth is composed of seven strategic processes. Each of these strategic processes is specifically designed to protect sensitive information and resources and maintain confidentiality, integrity and access. Each activity defining Cyber Security will either directly implement a strategic defensive process or enable the implementation.
Designer's View	Row 3 of the Zachman Framework is titled Designer. It describes VA's enterprise-wide logical information systems from the perspective of individual VA PMs. It is constrained by VA line and staff managers' views in Row 2, driven by the VA's ITB, and integrated by the Chief Enterprise Architect. In completing row 3 of the Framework, candidate projects from the Secretary's Strategic Plan and the Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries will be identified and prioritized. The Designer's View covers aspects of both the C4ISR Framework's Operational and Systems Views.
Dietics	The science or art of applying the principles of nutrition to the diet.

Term	Definition
Directive	An order or instruction, especially one issued by a central authority.
Disability	The condition of being disabled; incapacity. A disadvantage or deficiency, especially a physical or mental impairment that interferes with or prevents normal achievement in a particular area. Something that hinders or incapacitates.
Disability Benefit	One who is legally disabled and is entitled to certain specified health, monetary or other benefits due to his/her disability.
Distributed System	A collection of autonomous computers linked by a computer network and supported by software that enables the collection to operate as an integrated facility.
Distributed File System	A distributed file system is a client/server-based application that allows clients to access and process data stored on the server as if it were on their own computer. When a user accesses a file on the server, the server sends the user a copy of the file, which is cached on the user's computer while the data is being processed and is then returned to the server.
Distributed Systems Architecture	The overall design of a distributed system.
Domiciliary	A residence, a home. One's legal residence.
Earned Benefits	This encompasses all activities associated with the provision of services and benefits to U.S. citizens that have been earned through the contribution of money or service to the United States. The term 'earned' denotes that the beneficiary, by reason of national service or personal effort, has previously secured the benefits and services provided by his/her business area. Delivery of the benefit completes the contract between the beneficiary and the government and the transaction fulfills the government's earlier commitment. These benefits include veterans benefits (Title 38) reservist benefits (Title 10) and social security benefits (Title 20).
Education Procedures Manual	Procedures governing operations at education regional processing offices.

Term	Definition
Electronic Data Interchange	EDI is the computer-to-computer interchange of strictly formatted messages that represent documents other than monetary instruments. EDI implies a sequence of messages between two parties, either of whom may serve as originator or recipient. The formatted data representing the documents may be transmitted from originator to recipient via telecommunications or physically transported on electronic storage media.
Eligibility	The determination that a veteran, through the nature and duration of his/her military service has earned benefits provided by the VA.
Encryption	Conversion of data into code form for security purposes during transmission and decoding at the receiving end. <i>Encryption</i> is called a ciphertext, that cannot be easily understood by unauthorized individuals.
Enterprise Architecture	A business design. The term <i>architecture</i> can refer to either hardware or software, or to a combination of hardware and software. The architecture of a system always defines its broad outlines, and may define precise mechanisms as well.
Enterprise Business Functions	EBFs are typically externally focused functions, involving direct interactions with Veterans across the enterprise, such as providing Medical Care Benefits, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits.
Expense	Outlay chargeable against revenue. Includes assets or liabilities during a period of providing goods, rendering services, or carrying out other activities related to a program or mission.
Extended Care	Care that is for a longer duration of time due to physical and/or mental or other health care related complication.
External Service Provider	Someone who provides rehabilitation services, education programs, and other support services for use in a specific veteran's rehabilitation plan who is not a VA employee or contract provider.
Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board	The <i>Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board</i> promulgates accounting principles for federal government reporting entities.
Federal Acquisition Regulations	Established for the codification and publication of uniform policies and procedures for acquisition by all executive agencies.

Term	Definition
Fiduciaries	One, such as an agent of a principal or a company director, that stands in a special relation of trust, confidence, or responsibility in certain obligations to others. Of or relating to a holding of something in trust for another: <i>a fiduciary heir; a fiduciary contract.</i>
Field User	A user whose primary work site is in a field office as opposed to VA Headquarters in Washington, DC.
Firewall	Any of a number of security schemes that prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to a computer network or that monitor transfers of information to and from the network.
Functional Allocation	A functional design allocated to be built and set apart for a special purpose; designate: allocate a function to be used for storing data. Adapted to a particular function or use: <i>functional enterprise architecture.</i> That which is capable of now being performed to be operative.
Functioning Enterprise	Row 6 of the Zachman Framework is titled Functioning Enterprise. It is VA's operating business functions and processes with their supporting information systems from the perspective of VA users, customers and other stakeholders. It is constrained by their roles and responsibilities and driven by VA objectives and performance measures.
Gateway	Conceptual or logical network station that interconnects two otherwise incompatible networks, network nodes, subnetworks or devices. Gateways perform protocol-conversion operations across a wide spectrum of communications functions or layers.
Gold Standard	A term used to describe a definitive standard.
Health Administration Center	Administers and adjudicates claims for VHA healthcare programs.
Health Cohorts	Particular subsets of medical care, e.g., diabetes, stroke, hypertension.
Health Data Repository	The physical location in which data related to health is stored.
Health Eligibility Center	Establishes patient eligibility for VHA healthcare services, including income verification required by PL 101-508 and PL 104-162.
HealthVet	A web-based system that empowers veterans with information and tools so that they can improve their health to the maximum extent possible.

Term	Definition
Honorable Discharge	Discharge from the armed forces with a commendable record.
Independent Outpatient Clinic	A full-time, self-contained, freestanding ambulatory care clinic which has no management, program or fiscal relationships to a VA medical center. Primary and specialty health care services are provided in an outpatient setting.
Information Technology Board	The ITB Council provides guidance and oversight in using technology to improve the quality and efficiency of VA's services to the veteran. In addition to the VA CIO, Deputy VA CIO, VHA and VBA CIOs, four other organizations are represented on the ITB. They are the National Cemetery Administration, the Office of Policy and Planning, the Office of Management, and the Board of Veterans Appeals. The Council recommends capital investments in information technology to improve corporate business processes, eliminate duplication, and generally unify the Department's information management activities.
Inpatient Care	A patient who is admitted to a hospital or clinic for treatment that requires at least one overnight stay.
Integrity	The state or quality of being entire or complete; wholeness; entireness; unbroken state; as, the integrity of an operating system, e.g., Windows NT.
Interment	The act or ceremony of depositing a dead body in the earth; burial; sepulture.
Internet	Worldwide network of computer computer networks that use the TCP/IP network protocols to facilitate data transmission and exchange.
Intranet	A privately maintained computer network that can be accessed only by authorized persons, especially members or employees of the organization that owns it.
Intrusion Detection Systems	Software that can detect if an unauthorized user (sic, hacker) is attempting to make an unauthorized entry into a computer system for which he/she has no authorization.
Inurnment	The burial of cremated remains.
Key Enabling Functions	KEFs, such as Eligibility and Registration, are functions necessary to support the Enterprise Business Functions (EBFs), and enable smooth operation of the overall enterprise, both internally and externally.
Logical	Views of a domain that are unconstrained by space, time or technology.

Term	Definition
Mapping	In network operations, the logical association of one set of values, such as addresses on one network, with other quantities or values, such as devices on a second network (for example name-address mapping, internetwork-route mapping).
Materiel	Items of equipment and supplies necessary to equip, provide a materiel pipeline, and sustain an organization in the fulfillment of its purposes or tasks.
Medical Centers	A complex that offers a full range of medical, emergency health care and possibly medical research facilities that is staffed by medical doctors, nurses and other medical practitioners.
Montgomery GI Bill	This program provides educational assistance for veterans, servicepersons and reservists.
Network Architecture	The philosophy and organizational concept for enabling communications between equipment at multiple locations; detailed specifications outlining the processors, terminals and transmission media, protocols and software to be used to accomplish accurate communications.
Network Operations Center	A place from which a telecommunications network is supervised, monitored, and maintained.

Term	Definition
One-VA	<p>Customer's Perspective: With just a single access to VA, customers receive general information about all VA benefits and services and how to apply for them, and they exchange information with VA that relates to their specific eligibility determination, award determination, and receipt and use of any VA benefit or service. Subsequent to that initial access, in cases where the customer must or desires to interact directly with a VA functional specialist (e.g., nurse, physician, vocational rehabilitation counselor, claims adjudicator, appeals lawyer), the single access veteran service representative can quickly transfer the customer to an appropriate specialist. Customers have the option to use an automated VA self-service capability to acquire many of the same services provided by single-access veteran service representatives.</p> <p>Internal VA Perspective: For the purpose of improving the quality of service to veterans, VA business lines and their external partners maximize the sharing of communications assets, information processing assets, and customer-specific information. Together, they plan, design, develop, and implement business processes, procedures, and supporting information systems that efficiently and effectively integrate their operations, using these shared assets to enable robust, single-access customer service wherever appropriate.</p>
Operating System	Software that controls the management and execution of programs.
Orthotics	Orthopedic devices designed to treat or adjust various biomechanical foot disorders.
Outpatient Care	A patient who is admitted to a hospital or clinic for treatment that does not require an overnight stay.
Outreach	The act or process of the VA reaching out to veterans.
Non-Repudiation	A situation in which someone signs a document, ensuring document integrity and authenticity, cannot claim that they didn't originate the document, or that the document was altered after they signed it.
Payable	Money owed to suppliers or persons.
Payer	The person making a payment to a payee (i.e., the person receiving payment through any form of money transfer method).

Term	Definition
Prototype Development Approval	Compliance with the “Business Owner’s View; Functional Decomposition and Allocation” to include compliance with the allocated functional baseline, and initiation of the detailed functional and technical requirements baseline of the One-VA EA.
Pension	A stated allowance to a person in consideration of past services in the US Armed Forces; payment made by the VA to one retired from service, on account of age, disability, or other cause; especially, a regular stipend paid by the VA to a retired officer, disabled soldiers, the families of soldiers killed in service. Pension payments are currently made at 57 regional offices. The VA is currently transitioning to three Pension Centers located in Philadelphia, Milwaukee and St. Paul.
Physical	Views of a domain constrained by space, time and technology.
Planner’s View	Row 1 of the Zachman Framework is titled Planner. It describes VA’s vision and mission from the perspective of the VA Secretary in terms of the EBFs and KEFs that define the work of the Department. It is both motivated and constrained by legislation and other external and internal drivers.
Platform	The basic technology of a computer system's hardware and software that defines how a computer is operated and determines what other kinds of software can be used.
Post Implementation Review	Continued compliance with allocated functional baseline, TRM and Standards Profile, and completion of the “Functioning Enterprise View” of the One-VA EA.
Presidential Memorial Certificate	A gold embossed paper certificate bearing the name of an eligible deceased veteran and signed with the signature of the President of the United States. The Presidential Memorial Certificate is provided to family and friends of the veteran as a commemorative memorial of the veteran’s service.
Primary Care	The medical care a VA patient receives upon first contact with the VA health care system, before referral elsewhere within the system.
Privacy	Privacy is the protection of personal information, which is managed through notice to the individual of the collection and use of their data, choice of the individual to agree to the collection and uses, and access controls of the data to ensure confidentiality, integrity and availability.
Process Threads	Chains of sub-functions that perform a larger function.

Term	Definition
Procurement	The act by which the VA gets possession of something; "he was responsible for the procurement of materials and supplies for the One-VA Enterprise Architecture."
Program	A set of interrelated projects.
Program Integrity	The state or quality of a system of services or projects usually designed to meet a business and/or social need that is entire or complete: wholeness; entireness; unbroken state; as, the integrity of an operation of a process or procedure.
Project Initiation Approval	Compliance with the "Planner's View; Top Level Scope" and positioning of the proposed IT system within the overall distributed systems architecture of the One-VA EA.
Project Milestone Reviews	Review of a project at specified completion points in the project lifecycle.
Provisioning	Provisioning is the process of selecting and procuring equipment, parts and material to the range and depth necessary to support an organization.
Public Key	In cryptography, a public key is a value provided by some designated authority as an encryption key that, combined with a private key derived from the public key, can be used to effectively encrypt messages and digital signatures. The use of combined public and private keys is known as <i>asymmetric</i> cryptography. A system for using public keys is called a public key infrastructure (PKI).
Read-only	Capable of being displayed, but not modified or deleted. All operating systems allow you to protect objects (disks, files, directories) with a <i>read-only attributes</i> that prevents other users from modifying the object.
Receivable	Suitable for being received or accepted, especially as payment. Awaiting or requiring payment; due or collectible.
Regional Office	Any of the 57 regional offices of the VA where certain specified VA business operations and/or professional activities are performed. A subdivision of the VAs department.
Registration	Identification and qualification of a veteran or other person as a potential VA beneficiary.
Registration and Eligibility	Registration and Eligibility is a fundamental process that spans the VA enterprise, and supports each of the identified VA lines of business. It has been identified in VA strategic planning documents as a critical enabling function and is an identified priority in developing the One-VA EA (see section 3.16 for further details).

Term	Definition
Remote Access Service	Services that enable geographically dispersed users to connect to enterprise network services and applications.
Remote Care	Provision of health care services where the provider and patient are geographically separated. Also referred to as telemedicine.
Repatriation	To restore or return to the country of birth, citizenship, or origin: <i>repatriate war refugees</i> .
Repository	In information technology, a repository is a central place in which an aggregation of data is kept and maintained in an organized way, usually in computer storage. Depending on how the term is used, a repository may be directly accessible to users or may be a place from which specific databases, files, or documents are obtained for further relocation or distribution in a network. A repository may be just the aggregation of data itself into some accessible place of storage or it may also imply some ability to selectively extract data.
Service Data	Information on a veteran's service record provided by DOD, e.g., DD214 or equivalent.
Sequencing Plan	A following of one thing after another; succession. An order of succession; an arrangement. A number of objects or events arranged or coming one after the other in succession.
Specialty Care	Health care related to a specific area of medicine.
Stakeholder	One who has a share or an interest, as in the One-VA Enterprise Architecture.
Standards Profile	The standards profile defines a set of IT standards that support the services articulated in the Technical Reference Model.
Security Operations Center	A place from which the security of a telecommunications network is supervised, monitored, and maintained.
Service Level Agreement	A contract between a network service provider and a customer that specifies, usually in measurable terms, what services the network service provider will furnish.
Station Surveys	A survey of customer satisfaction specific to the local station where they received service.
Subcontractor View	Row 5 of the Zachman Framework is titled Subcontractor. It describes VA's information systems from the perspective of information technology integrators and is the responsibility of VA PMs. The Builder and Subcontractor Views provide the technical detail that correlates to the C4ISR Framework's Technical View.

Term	Definition
Supervised Programs	Insurance programs which are provided under group policies purchased from companies outside VA.
Supplier	Vendors of services or products to VA.
Supplier Management	Management of suppliers and vendors, as well as VA employees, beneficiaries, and individuals who have been “vendorized”(i.e., payees who receive payment for performing VA business related activities).
Supply Chain Management	Management of inventories, transportation systems and whole distribution networks.
Survivor Benefit	Benefits paid to the survivors of a veteran.
System Deployment Approval	Continued compliance with allocated functional baseline, TRM and Standards Profile, completion of the “As-Built (Subcontractor’s) View” and initiation of the “Functioning Enterprise View” of the One-VA EA.
System Development Approval	Continued compliance with allocated functional baseline, TRM and Standards Profile, and completion of the “Designer’s and Builder’s View: Distributed Systems Architecture” of the One-VA EA.
To-Be	Future, Target. Future vision of a domain.
Target	Future, To-Be. Future vision of a domain.
Taxonomy	Taxonomy is the science of classification according to a pre-determined system, with the resulting catalog used to provide a conceptual framework for discussion, analysis, or information retrieval. In theory, the development of a good taxonomy takes into account the importance of separating elements of a group (taxon) into subgroups (taxa) that are mutually exclusive, unambiguous, and taken together, include all possibilities. In practice, a good taxonomy should be simple, easy to remember, and easy to use.
Transition Assistance Program	Assistance provided to military personnel as they separate from military service.
Trojan Horse	A program that appears to be legitimate but is designed to have destructive effects, as to data residing in the computer onto which the program was loaded.

Term	Definition
User Authorization	Authorization is the process of giving someone permission to do or have something. In multi-user computer systems, a system administrator defines for the system which users are allowed access to the system and what privileges of use (such as access to which file directories, hours of access, amount of allocated storage space, and so forth). Assuming that someone has logged in to a computer operating system or application, the system or application may want to identify what resources the user can be given during this session. Thus, authorization is sometimes seen as both the preliminary setting up of permissions by a system administrator and the actual checking of the permission values.
User Authentication	Authentication is the process of determining whether someone or something is, in fact, who or what it is declared to be. In private and public computer networks (including the Internet), authentication is commonly done through the use of logon passwords. Knowledge of the password is assumed to guarantee that the user is authentic. Each user registers initially (or is registered by someone else), using an assigned or self-declared password. On each subsequent use, the user must know and use the previously declared password. The weakness in this system for transactions that are significant (such as the exchange of money) is that passwords can often be stolen, accidentally revealed, or forgotten.
User ID	User Identification. The name you use to identify yourself when logging onto a computer system or online service. Both a username (user ID) and a password are required. In an Internet e-mail address, the username is the left part before the @ sign. For example, HEMINGWAY is the username in HEMINGWAY@mycompany.com.
VA Central Office	The headquarter offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. These offices are responsible for national oversight, policy development and deployment, budget, IT and personnel operations for VA's three administrations (VHA, VBA, NCA) and their programs.
VA Strategic Plan	The goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures and targets of VA.
Veteran	A person who has served in the armed forces.
Veteran Medical Records	Information on the state of a veteran's health, prior medical history, prior care and procedures, available from DOD, VA/VHA, and other sources.

Term	Definition
Veterans Readjustment Counseling Centers	These centers, also called Vet Centers, help veterans through community outreach. They offer specialized services, such as group, individual and family counseling, or to help eligible veterans overcome psychological difficulties. They also provide referral services, connecting veterans to VA programs and community services.
Vertical File	A collection of resource materials, such as pamphlets, clippings from periodicals, and mounted photographs, arranged for ready reference, as in a library or an archive.
Virus	Unlike a worm, a virus cannot infect other computers without assistance. It is propagated by vectors such as humans trading programs with their friends. The virus may do nothing but propagate itself and then allow the program to run normally. Usually, however, after propagating silently for a while, it starts doing things like writing "cute" messages on the terminal or playing strange tricks with the display.
VistA	Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture
Virtual Private Network	In general, virtual means the quality of effecting something without actually being that something. In information technology, there seems to be a virtual version of (virtually) everything. In this instance, network that is not for public use but for private.
Virtual Reality	An artificial environment created with computer hardware and software and presented to the user in such a way that it appears and feels like a real environment. To "enter" a virtual reality, a user dons special gloves, earphones, and goggles, all of which receive their input from the computer system. In this way, at least three of the five senses are controlled by the computer. In addition to feeding sensory input to the user, the devices also monitor the user's actions. The goggles, for example, track how the eyes move and respond accordingly by sending new video input. The term <i>virtual reality</i> is sometimes used more generally to refer to any virtual world represented in a computer, even if it's just a text-based or graphical representation.
Vocational Rehabilitation	Benefits and assistance to help disabled veterans obtain and maintain suitable employment or independence in daily living.
Waiver	An exception granted to existing requirements due to special circumstances.
Worm	A malicious program that replicates itself until it fills all of the storage space on a drive or network.

Term	Definition
Zachman Framework	A framework for enterprise architecture adopted by VA.